



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Coronavirus, Economy**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (10.00 am): COVID-19 continues to pose new challenges for Queensland, but I am pleased to report that our economic recovery plan is working and our state's performance is strong. There is no question that prolonged lockdowns in New South Wales and Victoria are hurting our economy, in particular our tourism and hospitality sectors. Unlike their counterparts in Sydney, Canberra or Melbourne, thanks to our strong health response to the pandemic Queensland businesses can operate freely in our state. To help them, we are delivering a jointly funded \$600 million support package for Queensland businesses. That includes grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$30,000 for businesses that have seen a 30 per cent fall in turnover because of lockdowns. It includes \$1,000 self-assessable grants for sole traders, and I am pleased to inform the House that applications for those grants open today.

The \$600 million package is on top of our \$50 million tourism and hospitality sector support package. This package included the waiving, refunding or deferring of a range of state fees, charges and taxes for tourism and hospitality businesses across Queensland. A \$20 million COVID-19 cleaning rebate scheme is also available to help cover the cost of professional cleaning for businesses with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case.

Our government's economic policies are working. Employment in July was up 95,000 compared with March 2020 and the unemployment rate was 5.2 per cent, having fallen in recent months to its lowest level since 2009. Queensland has still created more jobs than any other state or territory since the onset of the pandemic. Not only have we created more jobs than any other state or territory; we have created more jobs than all states and territories combined. Retail trade in July 2021 was up 11½ per cent compared with its pre-COVID level, with the housing sector also performing strongly. This is no wonder, with Queensland being one of the few places in the world to have crushed a delta outbreak in just eight days.

We know how dangerous delta is. We see what delta is doing to other jurisdictions. The people of New South Wales deserve all our sympathy and support. However, the actions of their government must be questioned. The New South Wales government did not go hard. The New South Wales government did not go fast. Now as they drag down the national economy and the morale of their own people, all they talk about is opening up regardless of the health consequences. It is an obsession shared by the federal government.

Scott Morrison botched the vaccine rollout. Scott Morrison botched international quarantine. It is no accident that these LNP governments keep falling into these errors. That is because these LNP governments are chock full of crazies. They do not believe in border controls. Some of them do not even believe in COVID. When these crazies complain about businesses or borders, they are using code. What they are really complaining about is that they do not want us to fight the virus. They want us to run up the white flag and open the borders to an uncontrolled outbreak in New South Wales just

because they say they have hit their vaccination target. What the last two years have shown is that a health disaster quickly becomes an economic disaster. Our government will not subject Queenslanders to an uncontrolled outbreak of the virus and the needless disease and suffering that follows. We are not going to subject Queenslanders to needless economic destruction and mass unemployment that would result from an uncontrolled COVID outbreak.

Queensland and Western Australia are the powerhouse states that now carry the nation. We have demonstrated that our way is the only way to protect jobs and the economy. It is now time that all LNP politicians stand up and unequivocally support the strict implementation of all health advice and, most of all, in this House. That includes—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Treasurer, do you have anything further to add? On reflection, I would also perhaps ask that you withdraw unparliamentary language. I believe in the current climate particularly, the term 'crazy' may reflect on people's mental health as referred to individuals as opposed to being used for an idea.

**Mr DICK:** I withdraw.